**REAL PRESENTS**
**BEHOLD HIM**
December 19 and 20, 2020

*The best Christmas present this world has received required a miracle beyond comprehension.*
*God becoming a human being.*

**FACE MASK PLEASE**
In humble service to all in our church community, we are asking all present from age 5 and up to wear a face mask during worship. Face masks are available from the ushers if you are without one. If you are unable to wear a face mask for medical reasons, please do all you can to maintain social distance from others. In Christian love, let us seek to protect the health of others.

**BELLS AND WELCOME**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

M  We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.
C  We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.
M  We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
C  We light four Advent candles as a sign of our confidence, joy, and hope.
M  Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
C  Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

*The fourth Advent candle is lit.*

**OPENING HYMN 735**

*Speak, O Lord*

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.
Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on your promises,
And by faith we’ll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built
And you fill the earth with your glory.

INVOCATION

M In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned.

C Forgive and heal us.

M The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
C Forgive our disobedience to your will.

M Your Son, our Savior, was born in poverty in a manger.
C Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

M The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
C Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

M The wise men followed the star to find Jesus, the King.
C Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance.

Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light;


ANTHEM (Saturday) One Small Child

FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:8-16

The Lord promises peace and safety for his people through the offspring he will raise up to build a house for his name.

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. 10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning 11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“‘The L ORD declares to you that the L ORD himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”
We raise a song of praise to our faithful Savior God.

**Psalm 89**

I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever; I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness, too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The angel, Gabriel, reveals to Mary the astounding truth that she is to be the mother of God’s Son.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!
CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY 24

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, 
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary, "Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

"I come from heav’n to tell the Lord's decree: A blessed virgin mother you shall be. Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleases God," she said. "My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

SERMON

Luke 1:26-38
Pastor Nathan Strobel
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 29

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Once for ev’ry sinner slain.
Thousand, thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.

Those dear tokens of his passion Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshipers.
With what wonder, With what wonder,
Gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, Amen, let all adore you High on your eternal throne.
Ev’ry knee shall bow before you; Come and take your people home!
Alleluia, Alleluia!
You shall reign and you alone!

CLOSING PRAYER

M Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
C Amen.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Steel Drum Band for accompanying our Sunday traditional services. The 13-member band is under the direction of Quinten Petersen. We thank them for sharing their God given talents to glorify our Lord.
**Weekly Calendar**

*For the week of December 21, 2020*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MON</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Walking Club (Main Church)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUE</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Walking Club (Main Church)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Lutheran School Christmas Break Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Divorce Care (School Classroom 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WED</strong></td>
<td>6:30 am</td>
<td>Sunrise Bible Study (Faith Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THURS</strong></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Christmas Eve at The Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve at The Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRI</strong></td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Christmas Day Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Christmas Day Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAT</strong></td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast Bible Study (Grace Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong></td>
<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Kids Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>The Bridge Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 am</td>
<td>The Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.*
FUNERAL
Fred Liermann, born April 10, 1930, entered eternal peace with his Savior on December 8, 2020. A private graveside service was held on December 11, 2020. Marianne Verhein, born August 18, 1953, entered eternal peace with her Savior on December 15, 2020. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time. May the God of all hope and comfort be with the loved ones of Fred and Marianne.

HOSPITALIZED
Lois Guhr (hospice care at Care-Age in Brookfield), Brittany Michaels (Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina), Lois Niermann (Hales Corners Care Center), Dorrette Probst (home hospice care), and Lois Stichmann (hospice care at The View at Pine Ridge in Oconomowoc).

ATTENDANCE
The following attended last week’s services: 80 on Saturday, 64 on Sunday 7:45 am, 84 on Sunday 9:15 am, 150 at The Bridge, 50 on Sunday 10:45 am, and 18 on Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve by Candlelight Services
- Wednesday, December 23, at 6:30 pm (No 7:00 pm traditional service this week.)
- Thursday, December 24, at noon, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm

The Bridge Christmas Eve Services
- Thursday, December 24, at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm

Christmas Day Services
- Friday, December 25, at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

New Year’s Eve Service
- Thursday, December 31, at 5:00 pm

Christmas Online
- Final Advent Devotional released Sunday, December 20.
- Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Program released Monday, December 21.
- The Nativity Story released Wednesday, December 23 --The four Advent stories of Isaiah, Joseph, the Shepherds, and Mary combined into a twenty-minute movie.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight livestreamed on Wednesday, December 23, at 6:30 pm. and available for replay.
- Christmas Eve Bridge service livestreamed at 11:30 am and available for replay.
- Christmas Day 10:00 am service livestreamed and available for replay.
December Family in Need
The year 2020 has been a difficult in many ways. Several of our member families have suffered devastating house fires. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured. However, the insurance company for one of these families has not been cooperative. Repairs have not begun; bills continue to mount. If you would like to give a gift to help this family through this difficult time, designate an offering, "December Family in Need." Thank you in advance for your loving care.

Special Year-end Gifts
Often individuals ask about special year-end giving ideas for our ministry. Below is the current “Wish List.” If you would like to give toward these items, clearly mark your offering, “Wish List,” with a note, for example, “Centennial Gym Scoreboard.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Est. Cost</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Still Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Family Room Furniture Updates</td>
<td>$8,850</td>
<td>$3,753</td>
<td>$5,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iPads for K-1</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$5,875</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial Gym Scoreboard</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$4,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Gym Resurfacing Special Graphics</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$3,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mission and Ministry
Our Mission and Ministry Fund is our “general fund” that supports our St. Paul’s Church and School ministry and the ministry of Wisconsin Lutheran High School and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Mission Partners
Mission Partners was a program begun by our synod over a decade ago to give members an opportunity to be more personally involved in mission support. Our Mission Partners are supported only by special gifts given by individuals and organizations within our congregation with no funds coming from our Mission and Ministry Fund. Our current mission partners are:

- Malawi Mission Partner – Pastor John Holtz is a son of our congregation serving in Malawi, Africa.
- Mexican Mission Partner – St. Paul’s member, Dan Thiel, served at Costa Maya Ministries on the Yucatan Peninsula.
- Garden Homes Mission Partner – St. Paul’s Staff Minister Dr. Joel Nelson served as principal at this church and school on Milwaukee’s north side.

Mortgage Fund
The mortgage on our 2010 Trinity Gym, Café and classrooms addition is paid by special gifts to the Mortgage Fund. Special gifts to this fund beyond our monthly payments can be used on additional principle payments.

Giving Reminders…

- The safest and most cost-effective way for St. Paul’s to receive your one-time or recurring gift is through an online donation. Nearly 40% of our gifts are received in this way. Set up your online giving at www.stpaulmuskego.org/give using our new PushPay giving platform.
- If you are 70 ½ or older, giving a gift from your IRA could reduce your tax payment.
- Giving a gift of appreciated stock can also provide tax advantages.
- Our Gift Trust Fund and Legacy Funds have been established to receive estate gifts. Find more information at https://stpaulmuskego.org/estate-planning/.
STOP AND PONDER: HIS NAME IS JESUS
Gather your family to watch and share the last two 20-minute devotionals we have produced to help you ponder the Christmas story at home. The devotionals are released on Sunday at 3:00 pm on St. Paul's Muskego YouTube Channel. The three previous devotionals are also available on the our YouTube channel.

ADVENT 4 – RELEASED DECEMBER 20
An angel tells a young girl who is about to become pregnant out of wedlock that she is “highly favored” and that the whole world will call her “blessed.” It seems impossible, but Mary trusts that not one word from God will fail.

CHRISTMAS VIDEO – RELEASED DECEMBER 23
To help you celebrate Christmas, the four devotions will be released as a mini-movie and the newly written “Nativity Song” will be shared to celebrate the story of the birth of our Savior.

SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS JANUARY 4
Have you considered a Christian education for your child? Registration for the 2021-2022 school year begins January 4 for our 3K through 8th grade Lutheran school. St. Paul’s participates in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin Parental School Choice programs. Income eligibility information is listed below. Our congregation also provides over $600,000 in tuition assistance each year. Don’t let financial concerns keep you from exploring this opportunity to help your child grow in faith. Schedule a tour with School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons at (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, or sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org.

LUTHERAN PREK AND ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 31
January and February are the months where many families are interested in learning more about a school for their child. Whether this is for 3K, 4K, Kindergarten or transferring into 1st – 8th grade, all are welcome. Do you know someone like this? If so, invite them to our open house on Sunday, January 31, 1:00-3:00 pm. I would love to talk to them about our schools. For COVID precautions, a sign-up for a time slot will be posted to the school website (www.stpmuskego.org) soon. We will have 3 families per 20 minutes. You may also contact me at sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org or (414) 422-0320, ext. 118, to set up a visit.

ST. PAUL’S CHILD CARE CENTER STAFF OPENING
Our child care center is hiring a teacher’s aide with the hours of Monday through Friday, 12:30 – 6:00 pm. Please contact Tammy Dockter at (414) 422-0320, ext. 200, or dockterta@stpmuskego.org for more information and to apply.
1. **Highs and Lows.** Go around the horn and share the highs and lows of today, and the personal challenges and opportunities of Christmas 2020. Prepare your list of prayer requests to share with the Almighty following your study of the "Christmas King" that follows.

2. **Highlight the different types of government in the world:** Autocracy (absolute monarchy, dictatorship), Democracy (rule of the people—direct or representative), Oligarchy (rule of a few). Where does Theocracy fit?
   - Why do many Americans "love" the royals of Great Britain, but are glad they "live across the pond"?
   - What is your preference, a president or a king? Why?
   - Do you trust Jesus as your king?

3. **Take a Deep Dive into the "Christmas King"** using the Next Steps exercise from the Sermon Notes page.
   - Read Ephesians 1:13-23
   - **Verses 13-21:** Make a quick list of the blessings of our Triune God.
   - **Verse 22:** How MUCH is Jesus ruling now? What is the AMAZING focus of his rule? Considering vv. 13-21, why can we trust his rule as our KING?
   - **Verse 23:** What do you make of the AMAZING statement that WE are “the fullness of him who fills everything in every way?”

4. **Join in Prayer** gathering the thoughts of the day.

5. **Close with Song:** _Joy to the world, the Lord is come!_
   - Let earth receive her King;
   - Let every heart prepare him room
   - And heav’n and nature sing...and heav’n and nature sing...
   - and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
   - He rules the world with truth and grace...
   - And makes the nations prove:
   - The glories of his righteousness
   - And wonders of his love...and wonders of his love...
   - and wonders, wonders of his love.
BEHOLD THE GIFT OF GOD!
Luke 1:26-38

Christmas is a season of opportunity for the Christian.

1. God’s Son, Wrapped In Flesh

   A. Why?
      The answer is in his N ________.
      The answer is in God’s P ________.

   B. How?
      The H ________ S ________ will come upon you!
      The child born will be the H ________ O ________.

   APPLICATION   Life without Jesus is like Christmas without the manger…

2. God’s Son, the Forever King

   A. Why?
      God had promised a descendant of D ________.
      Mankind is lost without a visible K ________.

   B. What?
      A kingdom N _____ of the world.
      A kingdom of H ________ and of H ________.”

   APPLICATION   What is the challenge of the Christmas King?

CONCLUSION   In the world, but under a heavenly King!

Next Steps

• Take a Deep Dive: Read Ephesians 1:13-23
  o Verses 13-21: Make a quick list of the blessings of our Triune God.
  o Verse 22: How MUCH is Jesus ruling now? What is the AMAZING focus of his rule?
  Considering vv. 13-21, why can we trust his rule as our KING?
  o Verse 23: What do you make of the AMAZING statement that WE are “the fullness of him who fills everything in every way?”

• Take a Look Back: Read 2 Samuel 7 before Christmas Eve. King David saw the wonder of God’s promise—a double-promise touching on the reign of David’s immediate son, Solomon, and his future son, Jesus. Do you see what David saw?